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Daily Highlights

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F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

◆ Security Council President, in statement on behalf of Council members, welcomes agreement on El Salvador reached at Headquarters on 31 December, 1991; urges parties to show maximum flexibility during talks on pending issues over the weekend.

◆ Cyrus Vance to return from fifth visit to Yugoslavia tomorrow, 4 January, to report to Secretary-General on talks with Portuguese Government officials, President of EEC and Yugoslav parties; International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) successful in creating protected areas for the sick and wounded.

◆ UNDRO report on Middle East/Persian Gulf emergency situation tells of shortfall in funding of $94 million mostly related to UNICEF and FAO programmes.

◆ Security Council holds 53 meetings and establishes three entirely new peace-keeping operations during 1991.

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The Security Council welcomed today the agreement between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) signed at Headquarters on 31 December, 1991, which, it said, would put a definite end to the Salvadorean armed conflict, when implemented.

In a statement on behalf of Council members, following consultations on its January programme, Council President Sir David Hannay said the agreement was of vital importance for the normalization of the situation in El Salvador and in the region as a whole.

He expressed the Council's gratitude and appreciation for the contribution of former Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar and his Personal Representative, Alvaro de Soto, as well as others who have assisted in solving the problem.

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The Council President urged the parties to show maximum flexibility in resolving the pending issues in negotiations at United Nations Headquarters starting this weekend. He also urged the parties to exercise maximum restraint and to take no action in the coming days which would be contrary to the agreement reached in New York.

The statement welcomed the Secretary-General's intention, stated during consultations, to submit a written report and proposals for the Council's action early next week, relating to the verification of cease-fire arrangements and the monitoring of the maintenance of public order, pending the establishment of the new National Civil Police. This would require the approval by the Council of new tasks for the United Nations Observation Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL). Council members would stand ready to deal expeditiously with any recommendations that the Secretary-General may make, the statement concluded.

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A United Nations spokesman announced today that Mr. Cyrus Vance, the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Yugoslavia, had met in Lisbon today with the Portuguese Foreign Minister, in his capacity as Chairman of the European Community.

Mr. Vance had met Tuesday with Portuguese Prime Minister and President Mario Soares, as well as with the incoming and outgoing Presidents of the EEC.

Mr. Vance was asked on 27 December, by the former Secretary-General, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, to undertake a fifth visit to Yugoslavia to see whether the outstanding obstacles could be removed for the deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping operation in the country.

Mr. Vance was now on his way back to New York to report to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali tomorrow, 4 January, the spokesman said.

In a related development, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has reported success in the establishment and supervision of protected zones in Yugoslavia, with the agreement of the parties, to provide protection for the sick and wounded and other non-combatant vulnerable groups.

In a review of activities since the outbreak of the conflict in Yugoslavia in June 1991, the Committee reported that it had provided humanitarian services to some 5,000 prisoners held in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia and Vojvodina, as well as more than 4,000 tonnes of relief supplies to some 600,000 civilians who had been displaced because of the conflict.

The Agency, which has a team of 50 expatriate staff in Yugoslavia, said it had also conducted surveys of medical needs in hospitals in the conflict zones and had set up emergency medical stocks in Belgrade and Zagreb. It had

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also launched a "medium term" assistance programme, which furnishes hospitals with equipment, medicine and supplies.

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The United Nations Inter-Agency Humanitarian Programme for Iraq, Kuwait and the Iraq/Turkey and Iraq/Iran border areas has received only 77 per cent of its total needs of $416.4 million, leaving a shortfall of $94.6 million, according to a financial report by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO). Most of the shortfall, the report said, related to contributions requested for programmes to be implemented by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

In its report issued today, UNDRO said that, following the extension of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and the Government of Iraq, a revised plan of action, covering the first six months of 1992, would be issued shortly.

A United Nations spokesman told correspondents at Headquarters that there had been some organizational structure changes since the resignation of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan as Executive Delegate on 20 December 1991. The office of the Executive Delegate in Geneva would continue to function under Mr. Olsen, Officer-in-Charge, a member of Prince Sadruddin's team in Baghdad.

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During 1991, the forty-sixth year of its existence, the Security Council held a total of 53 meetings -- 16 meetings less than in 1990.

The Council devoted 15 meetings to matters concerning peace-keeping operations and established three entirely new operations: the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), and the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL). It also established a United Nations Advance Mission to Cambodia (UNAMIC), a forerunner to a larger operation to be known as the United Nations Transition Administration in Cambodia (UNTAC) envisaged to monitor elections expected to take place during spring 1993. Further, as a successor to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM I), the Council established UNAVEM II.

Fourteen of the Council's meetings during the year concerned the situation arising from Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait and the aftermath of the Gulf war. Three meetings were devoted to the situation in Yugoslavia and two meetings each to the situations in the occupied territories, Cambodia and Cyprus. Separate meetings were also held on the situations in Liberia, El Salvador, Haiti and Western Sahara, respectively.

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